



Important Information About EPIC *and the* Medicare Drug Benefit

Beginning **January 1, 2006**, Medicare will provide prescription drug coverage through prescription drug plans. EPIC members enrolled in Medicare will soon begin receiving information about this important new benefit from Medicare, the Social Security Administration and from EPIC.

EPIC WILL CONTINUE TO EXIST

- ◆ EPIC will continue to exist to ensure New York State seniors receive the drugs they need.
- ◆ EPIC enrollees that choose to join a Medicare drug plan can also keep their EPIC coverage.
- ◆ By using Medicare and EPIC together, seniors can save even more!

ALL EPIC ENROLLEES SHOULD CONSIDER JOINING A MEDICARE DRUG PLAN

- ◆ Many EPIC enrollees will be able to save even more by joining a Medicare drug plan.
- ◆ Enrollees eligible for **FULL** "Extra Help" who join a Medicare drug plan will have their EPIC fees waived. These seniors will not pay a premium or deductible for their Medicare drug coverage, and will pay much lower co-payments (\$2 and \$5) than with EPIC.
 - Applications for "Extra Help" are now available from the Social Security Administration.
- ◆ EPIC can be used to "wrap around" the Medicare drug benefit for greater coverage and savings.
 - The pharmacy will automatically bill EPIC for any prescription costs not covered by Medicare (including any Medicare deductible, co-payment, gap in coverage, or non-covered drug).
 - By using EPIC and Medicare together, seniors will pay the lowest possible co-payment.
- ◆ EPIC and the State Health Insurance Information Counseling and Assistance Program (**HIICAP**) will help enrollees apply for "Extra Help" and select a Medicare plan that meets their drug needs and pharmacy preferences.

MORE INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE

EPIC Helpline: 1-800-332-3742
HIICAP Helpline: 1-800-333-4114

Social Security: 1-800-772-1213
Medicare: 1-800-633-4227